

SENATE BILL 1325

By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 9; Title 49 and Title 71, relative to refugee
resettlement.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-38-102, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Refugee resettlement agency" means any agency or organization, or the agency's affiliate or organization, that receives federal funding for refugee reception and placement resettlement services or other federal grants intended to support refugee resettlement activities;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-38-103, is amended by adding the following language as new, appropriately designated subdivisions:

(6) Collect the following information on a quarterly basis from refugee resettlement agencies in this state:

(A) The total number of refugees resettled by the agency and the total number of refugees resettled in each of the following age groups:

- (i) Under eighteen (18) years of age;
- (ii) Eighteen (18) years of age to sixty-four (64) years of age; and
- (iii) Sixty-five (65) years of age or older;

(B) The public assistance benefit programs that the refugees have applied for or enrolled into; and

(C) The number of refugee minors enrolled in the public school systems and whether such minors access English language learner services;

(7) Compile an annual report of the information collected pursuant to subdivision (6) and transmit such report to:

- (A) The representatives of affected local governments;
- (B) The state and local government committee of the senate;
- (C) The state government committee of the house of representatives;
- (D) The local government committee of the house of representatives; and
- (E) The commissioner of finance and administration;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 38, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) On or after January 1, 2014, the commissioner of finance and administration shall assess the cost to this state, and any political subdivision of this state, for costs associated with resettling refugees in this state, by using the information reported to the commissioner from the Tennessee office for refugees pursuant to § 4-38-103.

(b) After assessing the costs incurred by this state and any political subdivision of this state that enable the activities of each refugee resettlement agency, the commissioner shall issue to such agency an invoice for the amount calculated. Such amount, only up to the amount of funds the agency receives from the United States government for refugee reception, placement resettlement services or other refugee resettlement activities, this state or any political subdivision of this state, shall be due from the agency within one (1) month of the date on the invoice. Such agency shall send, along with payment, documentation of the amount of funds obtained by the agency from the United States government, this state or any political subdivision of this state; provided, that the department of finance and administration shall advise the agency as to what documentation shall be adequate.

(c) Failure of the refugee resettlement agency to make full payment required by this section shall remove the agency's "good standing" status with the secretary of state until full payment is made.

(d) The department of finance and administration shall annually allocate the funds collected pursuant to this section that are Medicaid funds to the department of intellectual and developmental disabilities. The department of finance and administration shall allocate all other funds collected pursuant to this section to the various affected state agencies and political subdivisions of this state to reimburse such agencies and subdivisions of expenses associated with refugee resettlement in this state.

(e) There is established a fund called the "reimbursement for refugee resettlement fund", which shall hold all moneys collected pursuant to this section until reimbursement is made. Moneys shall be deposited to the fund as provided in this section and shall be invested for the benefit of the fund pursuant to § 9-4-603. Moneys in the fund shall not revert to the general fund of the state, but shall remain available exclusively for the purposes set forth in this section.

SECTION 4. The commissioner of finance and administration is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it, except that for the purpose of promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.